Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the "Invisible Killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Avoidable deaths occur every year from accidental, non fire-related CO poisoning associated with common household appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters, generators and fireplaces. CO poisoning symptoms include headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea and similar flu-like symptoms. When CO poisoning is the cause of these symptoms they usually occur only in the home and decrease or disappear when you leave the home. Everyone in your home may have similar symptoms. In fact, CO poisoning is sometimes confused with the flu or food poisoning.

If you or your family experience symptoms that may be caused by CO, do the following:

- Leave your house and get into fresh air immediately.
- CO poisoning is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Call 9-1-1 once outside.

To prevent CO poisoning take the following precautions:

- Never use unvented gas or kerosene heaters in your home.
- Never use charcoal grills or barbeques indoors or in the garage.
- Never leave a car running in a garage even with the garage door open.
- Never ignore the symptoms of CO poisoning. Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- If you use a fuel-burning appliance install a working CO monitor in your home.
- Have fuel-burning appliances installed and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

Homes with fuel burning appliances should have Carbon Monoxide alarms to increase safety. These alarms may be purchased in home supply stores and various department stores. Remember that a CO alarm is not a replacement for good maintenance and common sense. Have appliances installed and maintained properly and never use equipment or appliances in a way they were not designed for. Leave your home and call 9-1-1 to report Carbon Monoxide emergencies.

Know the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning | Know The Symptoms

HEADACHES   NAUSEA   DIZZINESS   BREATHLESSNESS   COLLAPSE   LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS   = Call 9-1-1

Do you know the Washington State Carbon Monoxide Alarm Laws and how they apply to you?
Learn about them HERE

To learn more home safety tips, visit: www.bifd.org